



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Douglas SCHEIN et al.

Group Art Unit: 1744

Application No.: 10/815,874

Examiner: N. BOWERS

Filed: April 2, 2004

Docket No.: 115616

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR HOLDING A PLURALITY OF TUBES
CONNECTIBLE TO AN ORGAN OR TISSUE CONTAINER

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the September 7, 2007 Restriction Requirement, the period for replying being extended by the attached Petition for Extension of Time, Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-26 and 47, with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden.

See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid

unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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WPB:CJW/clf

Attachment:

Petition For Extension of Time

Date: March 7, 2008

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